

To: Smith, Paula[Smith.Paula@epa.gov]
From: Russo, Rebecca
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 4:26:04 PM
Subject: FW: News Release - Update on Local Response to Gold King Mine - Irrigation Ditches to be Flushed

Paula,

Can you please make sure I'm included on messages from Melissa. I'm not on her distribution list. I didn't know anything about last night's data release until Tim told me that he was preparing something for the website. I know Melissa asked for me to coordinate through you, but I really need to know what's going on so I'm not asking stupid questions constantly. Can you just ask her to cc me please? I will continue to go through you unless I really need something from her.

I would appreciate it.

Rebecca

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

Cell: 303-204-1930

From: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 10:16 AM
To: Russo, Rebecca
Subject: RE: News Release - Update on Local Response to Gold King Mine - Irrigation Ditches to be Flushed

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Lisa McClain-Vanderpool

Public Affairs Specialist/Media Officer

Office of Communications and Public Involvement

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, Colorado 80202

Office 303.312.6077

Cell 303.501.4027

From: Russo, Rebecca

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 10:14 AM

To: Card, Joan; Thomi, Wendy; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard; Hestmark, Martin; Poulet, Chris; Strausbaugh, Dan

Cc: Smith, Paula

Subject: RE: News Release - Update on Local Response to Gold King Mine - Irrigation Ditches to be Flushed

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

Cell: 303-204-1930

From: Card, Joan

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 8:56 AM

To: Thomi, Wendy; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard; Hestmark, Martin; Poulet, Chris; Strausbaugh, Dan

Cc: Russo, Rebecca; Smith, Paula

Subject: RE: News Release - Update on Local Response to Gold King Mine - Irrigation Ditches to be Flushed

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

From: Thomi, Wendy
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 8:53 AM
To: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard; Hestmark, Martin; Card, Joan; Poulet, Chris; Strausbaugh, Dan
Subject: FW: News Release - Update on Local Response to Gold King Mine - Irrigation Ditches to be Flushed

FYI

From: Sarah Jacobson [<mailto:Sarah.Jacobson@co.laplata.co.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:20 PM
To: Liane Jollon; Myers, Craig; Butch Knowlton; msouder@southernute-nsn.gov; kgurule@southernute-nsn.gov; terry.hoecker@durangogov.org; drew.petersen@state.co.us; trevor.denney@state.co.us; Thomas McNamara; Matt.Thorpe@state.co.us; casey.kay@state.co.us; greg.naugle@state.co.us; heather.drissel@state.co.us; patrick.j.pfaltzgraff@state.co.us; Ron.LeBlanc@durangogov.org; cathy.metz@durangogov.org; christinarinderle@durangogov.org; dbrookie@cityofdurango.gov; marybeth.miles@durangogov.org; mitchell.carter@durangogov.org; wayne.walsh@durangogov.org; victor.locke@durangogov.org; matt.holden@durangogov.org; steve.salka@durangogov.org; tpage@firenet.org; john.alves@state.co.us; patt.dorsey@state.co.us; lyon@lpcattorney.org; Sheryl Rogers; ken.charles@state.co.us; jack@durangobusiness.org; Karola Hanks; davissg@durangofirerescue.org; bairdsl@durangofirerescue.org; Wall, Dan; Christenson, Dave; Ostrander, David; Griswold, Hays; Stevenson, Peter; Thomi, Wendy; Portillos, Christine; khieux.joyel@epa.gov; Gwen Lachelt; Janalee Hogan; Joanne Spina; Joe Kerby; pfoster@wrightwater.com; Todd Weaver; **Personal Email/Ex. 6** jtl@hotmail.com; jtl@durango.net; Sarah Jacobson; Sean Smith; Frank Sandoval; j.white@state.co.us; andrewmiller@centura.org; akimple@mountainstudies.org; marcie@mountainstudies.org; kgurule@southernute-nsn.gov; director@sjcph.org; laila@sjcph.org; CooperD@sjces.net; oem@sanjuancountycolorado.us; darlene.marcus@mail.house.gov; rcorkish@gmail.com; john_whitney@bennet.senate.gov; ellen.roberts.senate@state.co.us; tojohns@southernute-nsn.gov; swhitema@southernute-nsn.gov; butlerpeter2@gmail.com; Melissa.Schneider@state.co.us; oem@sanjuancountycolorado.us
Subject: FW: News Release - Update on Local Response to Gold King Mine - Irrigation Ditches to be Flushed

Going out shortly to the media!!!!

From: Sarah Jacobson

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:14 PM

To: mark.salley@state.co.us; jeannine.natterman@state.co.us; meghan.trubee@state.co.us; wayne.walsh@durangogov.org; sherri.dugdale@durangogov.org; Joe Lewandowski; peterston.cynthia@epa.gov; acevedo.janie@epa.gov; harris-bishop.rusty@epa.gov; Sarah Jacobson; Susan Hakanson; foneil@sjbhd.org; cmacpherson@sjbhd.org; cninde@sjbhd.org; kgurule@southernute-nsn.gov; Daniel Bender; harrison.melissa@epa.gov; stclair.christie@epa.gov; amber.blake@durangogov.org; smith.paula@epa.gov; kmcduffie@sjbhd.org; anne.klein@madebyhco.com; sasmith@southernute-nsn.gov; amgarcia@southernute-nsn.gov

Subject: FW: News Release - Update on Local Response to Gold King Mine - Irrigation Ditches to be Flushed

Going to the media next! Thanks for all your help!

From: Sarah Jacobson

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:11 PM

To: Entire County; cmacpherson@sjbhd.org; jeannine.natterman@state.co.us

Subject: News Release - Update on Local Response to Gold King Mine - Irrigation Ditches to be Flushed

La Plata County, San Juan Basin Health Department and City of Durango are assisting the EPA by staffing the Call Center and providing GIS mapping of properties that have domestic water wells. There were a total of 54 residential water well samples taken through yesterday and a total of 24 private water wells will be sampled today. Individual well owners will be contacted directly as their results are completed, to be followed by written correspondence with validated results.

EPA technicians took 19 sediment samples yesterday and shipped 11 of those samples for testing yesterday, and 8 were sent overnight to labs today, because they were taken after the shipping deadline. Validated results are expected by Sunday. In addition, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has collected their own sediment samples and anticipates preliminary results tomorrow. Sheriff Smith, in consultation with all partner agencies stated, "Although we are all in agreement about the water quality results being back to pre-event levels, it is only prudent that we wait to have sediment testing results to ensure public safety prior to opening the river to recreation."

This evening, EPA officials will work with La Plata County Director of Emergency Management Butch Knowlton and ditch operators to inspect and flush out select irrigation ditches as a measured step towards opening irrigation for farmers and ranchers who depend on Animas River water for their crops and livestock. "I expect to see a slight temporary change in color of the Animas River as a result of the ditch flushing," said Knowlton. A plan to open and flush remaining ditches is being developed dependent upon results of this initial flush. Operators of ditches that take water from the Animas River are asked to call the Call Center at 970-385-8700 (open from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.) and provide their name and phone numbers so officials can coordinate opening of River head gates. Individual water users are asked to keep their gates closed until notified.

Despite the opening of the ditches, owners of livestock are cautioned against allowing livestock watering at this time. Butch Knowlton has requested additional involvement from veterinary science experts from national, state, and local levels to help address concerns that residents have expressed about their livestock. Topics to be addressed are concerns surrounding animals drinking from contaminated irrigation ditches, canals and the river.

“We are pleased that the community and our local, state and federal partners are taking these steps to bring our irrigation back online for our farmers and ranchers,” said Liane Jollon, San Juan Basin Health Director. “Based on the test results to date, the flowing water has returned to pre-incident levels.”

EPA launched a new website for the incident at <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>. CDPHE also has a webpage for the incident at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/animas-river-spill>.

Incident information is also posted to the La Plata County website at <http://www.co.laplata.co.us/emergency>, San Juan Basin Health Department’s Website at www.sjbhd.org, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LaPlataCounty and <http://www.facebook.com/sanjuanbasinhealth>. La Plata County has set up a call center for questions from citizens at 970-385-8700, open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.